

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. These attached sheets, each include all previous figures shown on the respective sheets, and replace the original sheets filed in the application that included Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

Attachments: Replacement sheets (11 sheets)

Annotated sheet showing changes (11 sheets)

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action mailed December 8, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. The Examiner is also thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's Representative during the telephonic interview held on April 6, 2010. The substance of the interview is reflected in the claim amendments made above and in the remarks that follow.

Claims 20, 25, 27, and 28 are hereby amended. No new matter was added. Claims 19, 21-24, 26, 29, and 30 are hereby canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, claims 1-18, 20, 25, 27, and 28 are currently pending, of which claims 1-18 are withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office objects to the drawings. Office Action at ¶ 4. The drawings have been amended to correct informalities. Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended to add the legend --Related Art--. Additionally, Fig. 2 was amended to correct a typographical error in the spelling of the word "drain." Fig. 13 was amended to correct typographical errors in the spelling of two words. Additionally, Figs. 4-7 and 9-11 were amended to remove reference no. 120 and its associate lead line from identifying the switch casing. Reference no. 120 identifies the return spring (of the safety lever). Finally, Fig. 13 was amended to correct a typographical error in the spelling of the word "opened." Applicant believes that the informalities of the drawings are cured and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

The Office objects to the Specification including the Title. Office Action at ¶¶ 5 and 6. Applicant has complied with the recommendations of the Office. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the objections to the specification including the title.

The Office rejects claims 23, 25, 28, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Office Action at ¶¶ 7-11. Claims 23 and 30 are canceled herein, accordingly the rejection of those claims is moot. Claims 25 and 28 are amended herein. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections of claims 23, 25, 28, and 30.

The Office rejects claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. PG-Pub 2004/0083769 to Kim et al. (Kim) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,449,383 to Cartier (Cartier). Office Action at ¶¶ 14-22. The Office rejects claims 21-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim, in view of Cartier, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,684 to Spiessl (Spiessl). Office Action at ¶¶ 23-34. Claims 19, 21-24, 26, 29, and 30 are canceled herein, accordingly the rejection of those claims is moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of remaining claims: independent claim 20 and claims 25, 27, 28, which depend either directly or indirectly therefrom.

As discussed during the interview of April 16, 2010, Applicant asserts that a washing apparatus having a door lock incorporating the safety features described in the specification was not disclosed in the cited references. The present set of claims, as amended above, distinguish over the cited references by reciting a method of operation of a door lock, which makes use, for example, of a heater, bimetal, switch, locking pin, safety lever, and a latch. The cited references fail to disclose the method as recited in independent claim 20.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that Kim, Cartier, and Spiessl, in any combination, fail to teach or suggest at least: A method for controlling a washing apparatus having a door lock, where the method includes:

applying current to a heater to heat a bimetal component at a start of the operating cycle;

closing, by thermal deformation of the bimetal component resulting from heat generated by the heater, the switch to permit power flow to the electric drive units;

moving, by thermal deformation of the bimetal component resulting from heat generated by the heater, a locking pin coupled to the bimetal component from an unlocked position to a locked position, wherein:

if the latch is forcibly removed from the casing during the operating cycle, a safety lever, coupled to the latch when the latch is secured in the casing, moves the locking pin from the locked position to the unlocked position and, by movement of the locking pin to the unlocked position, moves the bimetal component to open the switch to interrupt power flow to the electric drive units regardless of whether current continues to be applied to the heater.

as recited in independent claim 20 and dependent claims 25, 27, 28, by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 19-30.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: April 10, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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